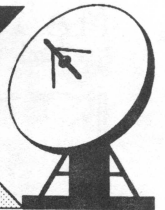


MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

Hotline - 901-664-9246



VOL. 4, NO. 40

OCT. 7-13

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

ET SCRUBS GRAHAM; ESPN STILL WAITS

LOS ANGELES---Former WWF champion Superstar Billy Graham's scheduled appearance on *ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT* was scrubbed by ET's producers last Thursday.

According to informed sources, Graham was told by producers of the Paramount his story is not substantive if he does not file a lawsuit over his degenerative bone condition, which Graham says is caused by enforced use of steroids.

However, Graham was still said to be booked for a date this past Tuesday on ESPN's *UP CLOSE* with Roy Firestone.

MICELI GETS START WITH WCW

ATLANTA---Former AWA women's champion Medusa Miceli was scheduled for a Monday night start at TV tapings for World Championship Wrestling.

Miceli, who has divided her time between the LPWA circuit and Japan, will apparently begin as a wrestler and evolve into a Sherri Martel-type character, according to WCW sources.

In recent weeks, Miceli has been under consideration for the role of "The Boss" of GLOBAL's Cartel.

WWF LAYS OFF 26 WORKERS

STAMFORD CT---In a sign of tough economic times, The World Wrestling Federation has furloughed an estimated 26 office workers.

MATWATCH was not able to reach WWF officials Friday but sources close to the organization say the layoffs are due, in part, to pay-per-view shows performing below subscription projections.

Titan Sports will attempt to make up some of the deficit with an added Dec. 3 pay-per-view event (see MATWATCHING).

All Shows Drop From '90

PRIME TIME CAPTURES THIRD QUARTER RATINGS

Continuing a year-long trend, every cable wrestling show posted a ratings decline in the third quarter over year-ago figures with WWF PRIME TIME WRESTLING capturing its second straight quarterly win.

THE THIRD QUARTER		
Show	1991	1990
WWF PRIME TIME	2.7/4.4	3.0/5.0
WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP	2.4/6.1	2.6/6.2
WWF ALL-AMERICAN	2.3/6.9	2.8/8.2
WCW MAIN EVENT	2.3/5.3	2.6/5.9
WCW POWER HOUR	1.4/6.7	1.8/4.5

PRIME TIME's 2.7 rating and 4.4 per cent share of audience was down 10% from last year's July-to-September average. PTW topped with a 3.3 July 1, just ahead of a 3.2 for the Ric Flair debut Sept. 9. But the quarterly average was hurt by three straight sub-par numbers, including an all-time low 2.1 Sept. 16.

Though languishing with eight of 12 third-quarter shows under a 2.5 rating, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING nosed out ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING for second in the cable averages. WCW's 2.4 still produced a respectable 6.1 share (a 5% share is the target for non prime-time hours). But the rating was off 8% from last summer's numbers when Ole Anderson-booked shows scored a 2.7 or better eight times.

WWF ALL-AMERICAN and WCW MAIN EVENT virtually tied at 2.3, with MAIN EVENT delivering more homes and ALL-AMERICAN a higher share. ALL-AM's 2.3/6.9 slumped 12% from 1990's 2.6. WME, hampered by five pre-emptions during the quarter, fell to 2.3/5.3, also off 12%.

WCW's POWER HOUR ratings are tough to compare because the series was still airing on Friday evenings last summer, as opposed to the early Saturday hour which has fewer homes viewing. POWER's 1.4/6.7 was up in share from the Friday hour of 1990 but down 22% in rating.

ANALYSIS

It's easy to take shots at these continuously-falling numbers on a year-to-year basis. But there is no denying the general malaise which TV wrestling audiences (and many weekly shows) have experienced the past two years. Vince McMahon, no doubt, saved PRIME TIME from a deeper fall by repackaging it. The wrestling is important, yet, incidental to the sandwiching entertainment.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP perked up to a 2.6 average in September, indicative that the Ric Flair departure has not destroyed its core audience. Yet, as many editors, fans and critics have suggested, at least one of those three TBS shows is in sore need of an overhaul in its format. Other than WCW's Center Stage locale, the programs still look identical but for the names and one change in co-hosts. Again, if you are shopping for fashions and three companies offer an identical style, chances are consumers will buy the one with the most attractive window-dressing. It's an issue the WCW steering committee should be considering in all earnestness.

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MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

MATWATCH ceases publication as of Jan. 27, 1992. Through Nov. 15, MATWATCH will still accept the standard 5-issue orders at the following rates:

(U.S./CANADA) \$6 (OVERSEAS) \$9

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Check your mailing labels. If you wish to subscribe to MATWATCH through its final issue on Jan. 27, 1992, the corresponding rate is listed adjacent to your expiration date:

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1991 Annual MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER

It sounds like a shootout in the middle of Dodge City and---to be honest---parts of it may resemble one.

MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER will take a different track from our past three annuals. As opposed to awards balloting, which many fine publications will offer, we will end with a written travelogue through four years of MATWATCH, dealing with how the bulletin began, previously unrevealed vignettes of how key stories were uncovered, our view of key personalities in wrestling and---true to our annual roots---the Top 15 TV news stories of 1991.

The annual, approximately 100 pages, will be published Feb. 15. CHECK, CASH or MONEY ORDER to: MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305. Please mark checks for MATWATCH ANNUAL.

Third of Six Parts

FIFTY YEARS OF MAT TV: THE EARLY ANNOUNCERS

(ED. NOTE: This series is edited from MATWATCH publisher Steve Beverly's thesis, A HISTORY OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING AS TELEVISION PROGRAM FORM: 1941-1989).

The professional grappler may be the actor in our contemporary Globe Theater; yet, he cannot succeed in his weekly catharsis on television without a first-class announcer to advance the action. As in many other genres of early television, no rules had been established as to how a wrestling commentator would conduct business on the air. Two men are generally regarded as the pari which set the pioneering standards.

DICK LANE: THE ORIGINATOR

Old-timers may see traces of Dick Lane's delivery in the hysterics of the WWF's Vince McMahon. Lane was perfect for primitive TV. Strictly Hollywood, Lane virtually directed his late-night broadcasts while announcing them.

He began a weekly mat series in Los Angeles in 1942, which evolved into the syndicated WRESTLING FROM THE OLYMPIC in the 1960s and '70s. While originating from the KTLA studios, Lane was credited with creating the TV hype interview, which author Ron Powers has termed "a half-facetious, half-serious, always semi-hysterical rambling style ...to set up viewer interest for upcoming bouts." Lane would virtually order directors to move in for closeups as grapplers went into a maniacal rage. In the days of the small screen set, this was an almost unheard-of intimacy. Lane's show is also where wrestler Freddie Blassie invented the phrase "pencil-necked geek."

Lane invented a form of realism for the home fan. As a former actor, Lane embodied what Hans Lenk calls an ability to make being "carried away" acceptable. In Powers' book SUPERTUBE, Lane tells of 30-plus years of success: "I liked those people. I never belittled them in any way---never criticized them, unless they did something bad or very stupid. You don't throw rocks at people you like."

When OLYMPIC ended syndication in 1978, Lane had called an estimated 40,000 matches. He also introduced a future TONIGHT SHOW host to TV. Steve Allen cut his teeth doing commercials on Lane's mat show in 1947. Soon, Lane used Allen as color man. Lane played it straight while Allen went right to satire (blowing a whoopie whistle during a hip toss). Allen's favorite wrestler was Baron Michel Leone: "He would have been a great star if he had worked in an earlier medium---silent films---because he worked mostly in pantomime."

DENNIS JAMES: "OKAY, MOTHER"

Far better known today as a former host of THE PRICE IS RIGHT and NAME THAT TUNE, Dennis James is credited by most analysts as getting wrestling over on a network basis. He called the action on both ABC and DuMont. Unlike Lane, who kept things serious, James announced with a wink, exaggerating even more than Steve Allen.

James targeted his commentary to a specific wrestling audience staple---the older female. When a wrestler became locked in a painful hold, James would snap a chicken bone on mike. He might say, "Okay, mother, that's a hammerlock." Later, he would host a daytime talk show called, appropriately, OKAY, MOTHER!

In the Arthur Shulman-Roger Youman book HOW SWEET IT WAS, James' ringside paraphernalia was described: "He came equipped with dog biscuits, walnut shells and pieces of wood. When a grappler was sent flying across the ring, James would play a cadenza on a harmonica."

Dennis James won TV's only Emmy for a wrestling announcer. But not everyone was impressed. In Gordon Solie's autobiography, he wrote: "(James) used sound effects to make fun of the wrestlers in a snide way. The wrestlers didn't like him for that."

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VIDIOTS

Sept. 30-Oct. 6

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]:

Davey Boy Smith d. Brooklyn Brawler; Beverly Bros. d. Mario Milano/Martin Roy; Big Bully Busich d. Barry Hardy; Big Bossman d. Dwayne Gill; Bret Hart d. Paul Perez; Natural Disasters d. Tony Diamond/Mark Thomas; (VIDEO) Tito Santana as El Matador; (VIDEO) Sgt. Slaughter; (SPECIAL REPORT) Ric Flair attack on Roddy Piper & Piper's accidental bashing of Vince McMahon w. chair. RESTHOLD. [SUPERSTARS]: Berserker d. Scott Taylor; (UPDATE) Flair/Piper/McMahon angle w. Vince being stretched; (CLIP) Hulk Hogan in "Suburban Commando;" (FUNERAL PARLOR) Paul Bearer w. Sid Justice; Virgil d. Mike Williams; (VIDEO) Santana as Matador; (FEATURE) Sgt. Slaughter in Arlington National Cemetery; Ricky Steamboat d. Mike Durham; Other winners: Legion of Doom, Nasty Boys. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LPWA) - Misty Blue Simmes d. Nasty Linda; Susan Sexton d. Allison Royal; Bambi/Malaya Hosaka d. Candi Divine/Rusty Thomas; (ANGLE) Medusa Miceli smacks Joe Pedicino w. cream pie; Miceli d. Nasty Kat LeRoux; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Jim Cornette tangled between Team America I & II during scuffle; Terri Power/Reggie Bennett double DQ vs. Magnificent Mimi/Denise Storm. DRAW-PLUS.

(GLOBAL/SYN) - [MAJOR LEAGUE]: {OPENING ANGLE} Frantic, crying Scott Anthony says he hates Handsome Stranger for stealing former fiancée Julie; [RECAP/LT. HWT. TITLE]: Chaz-Lightning Kid series, including Chaz winning belt and news of his later loss; Stranger d. Ed Robinson; (SEGMENT) Skandor Akbar announces Gary Young has injured Rod Price's knee & hires Sweet Daddy Falcone for Coast-to-Coast Connection; (GWF TAG TITLE) Chris Walker/Steve Simpson d. Davis Bros. to retain belts; (NEWSROOM) Joe Pedicino on GWF forcing Patriot to give up TV belt, shows Patriot centerspread in WEEKLY FIGHT magazine & reviews Stranger-Anthony, Scott Steiner situations; John Tatum d. Rick Garren; (MIDGETS) Mario Santana d. Million \$ Baby; (REPLAY) Maulers vs. Young/Jeff Gaylord ends in 8-way brawl w. Renegade Warriors, Tatum/Price joining. Sheriff Bill Irwin clears ring w. bullwhip; Young vs. Anthony announced. Scott doesn't show for music. Tatum says Anthony too depressed to wrestle. Tatum goes to ring to explain, ambushes Young. Maulers run in, use chair on Young's knee. Renegades/Irwin save; (FINALE) Boni Blackstone finds Scotty in dressing room whining about Stranger & Julie. Then, he blows up & destroys dressing room. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENTS]: Falcone d. Tony Falk; Irwin d. Ken Stryker; Lightning Kid d. Terry Daniels; Davis Bros. d. Terry Garvin/Robinson; Rattlesnake Raitz d. Steven Dane. RESTHOLD.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - [THEME: Brute Force retrospective]: Brute Force d. Dustin Taylor/Steve Prichard; Brute Force d. Chic & Rick Donovan; (GLOBAL) Walker/Simpson d. Texas Outlaws; (CLASSIC/S. ATLANTIC) Nasty Boys d. American Bulldogs; (POINT/COUNTERPOINT) Scott Hudson/Steven DeTruth on Brute Force; (INTL/JAPAN) Tito Sanchez d. Moto Joe. BOMB-PLUS.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - [1981] Crusher/Baron Von Raschke d. Jerry Blackwell/Big John Studd (ring breaks during match); [1981] Greg Gagne/Jim Brunzell d. Adrian Adonis/Jesse Ventura; [1981/HANDICAP] Hulk Hogan d. Nick Bockwinkel/Bobby Heenan. DRAW.

(IWCCW) - Scott Putski d. Zap; Ivan Putski d. Zoom; Billion \$ Babies d. Ralph Garr/Tom Snyder; Tony Atlas d. Tommy Dreamer. BOMB-PLUS.

(SUNCOAST PRO) - [REPLAY/LUMBERJACK MATCH] Boris Malenko/Frankie Reyes d. Penelope Paradise/Superstar; (MUSIC VIDEO) SUNCOAST PRO collage; Brian Jernigan draw vs. Charlie Anderson. NO RATING.

SCALE: PINFALL! -
Must See. PILEDRIIVER -
Excellent. POWERSLAM -
Good. DRAW - Average.
RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB -
Poor. PLUS - Midscale
rating.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: {DOUBLE REPLAY} Two runs of Flair attack on Piper w. Piper accidentally bashing McMahon w. chair; (GUEST) Hogan in "Suburban Commando" gear warns Flair his time is coming; (CLIPS) Hogan in "SC;" Jake Roberts d. Diamond; Beverly Bros. d. Milano/Roy; Davey Boy d. Busick by DQ when Bruno Whippleman pulls down top rope & Davey Boy falls over. Smith revives, tosses Nick out & dumps Bruno over top; (GUEST) Skinner, who spits tobacco juice on Alfred Hayes' tux; Jim Duggan d. Col. Mustafa when he grabs 2x4 from Gen. Adnan & whacks Khoslow; (FINALE) As Bobby Heenan is on phone w. Flair, Hogan puts nerve hold on Heenan, who lays out Brain, grabs phone, mocks Flair's "woooooo." DRAW.

(WCW/SYN) - [WCW PRO]: Tracy Smothers d. Bob Cook; (WNN) Gordon Solie on Sting box angles; Big Josh d. Zan Panzer; (VIDEO) Paul E. Dangerously/Missy Hyatt search for Chamber of Horrors in Secaucus NJ; (SEGMENT) Harley Race denies he & Curtis Hughes attacked Tom Zenk in dressing room; Dustin Rhodes d. Sonny Trout; (WORLD WIDE) Attack on Z-Ref; Johnny B. Badd d. Kenny Kendall; Bill Kazmaier/Brian Pillman d. Abdullah the Butcher/Cactus Jack when Abby uses kendo stick as Kazmaier about to pin Cactus. RESTHOLD-PLUS. [WORLD WIDE]: P.N. News d. Mike Fever; (WNN) Solie on Z-Ref attack; Freebirds d. Chris Sullivan/Joey Maggs; (VIDEO) Paul E./Missy in Secaucus; Lex Luger d. Terry Bronson; (SEG) Tony Schiavone w. Luger Trio; Diamond Stud d. Cook; Bobby Eaton d. Cactus when Abby runs in w. kendo stick; (REPLAY) Attack on Z-Ref; Badd d. Keith Hart. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/WMC) - Tony Falk d. Dave Dowdy; Tom Prichard/Eric Embry d. Hillbilly Wayne/Ben Mullins; (SEGMENT) Eddie Marlin says only reason Embry not fired is Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller asked him not to; (SEG) Billy Joe Travis challenges Jerry Lawler to "sing-off;" Travis/Randy Rhodes d. Freezer Thompson/Chris Frazier; (ANGLE) Freezer rejects Falk's offer to join Embry; (SEG) Lawler/Eddie Gilbert discuss USWA world vs. Global TV title match & get into heated debate; (VIDEO) Gilbert-Lawler history, including car rundown; Danny Davis d. Scorpion; (SEG) Davis offers Bill Dundee any or all of his earnings from Japan but Bill declines; Robert Fuller d. Bull Pain by DQ. RESTHOLD.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Rick Steiner d. Paul Lee; Enforcers d. Johnny Rich/Scott Allen. Freebirds enter after & after Michael insults Arn, 4-way brawl erupts; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. w. Simmons/Barry Windham; Windham d. Mike Thor. Barry decks Hughes after & pounds on Race until Harley & Curtis doubleteam; Pillman d. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker; (MISSY DOES MAIL) Eaton/Steiner vs. Cactus/Abby feud; (WCW 6-MAN TAG TITLE) Josh/Rhodes/Zenk d. Terrence Taylor/Richard Morton/Thomas Rich to retain belts. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

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[MAIN EVENT/Sat.]: Freebirds d. Bronson/Larry Santo; Badd d. John Douglas; (CONTROL CENTER) Solie on Chamber of Horrors; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. w. Kazmaier; (RECAP) Z-Ref saga; Stud d. Johnny Meadows; (WCW TV TITLE) Josh d. Steve Austin by DQ for Jeannie Clarke's interference. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: (OPEN) Enforcers skedded vs. Sullivan/Douglas but Freebirds toss them out and d. Larry/Arn in non-title match; (CONTROL CENTER) Solie on Luger-Ron Simmons; (WCW TV TITLE) Austin d. Curtis Thompson; Cactus Jack/Abby d. Scott Sandlin/John Faulkner & Abby throws Sandlin into set; (DANGER ZONE) Cactus/Abby bring out box w. birthday cake for Sting; Rhodes d. Lou Fabiano; (REPLAY) Luger Trio attacks Dustin; (LAST WEEK) Pillman d. Richard Morton by pinning Thomas Rich, who ran in. York Foundation triples on Brian after; Rich d. Pillman with whack w. laptop when ref distracted but Josh/Terrence Taylor run in after for 4-way brawl. DRAW-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT/Sun.]: Windham/Simmons d. Tim Frye/Fabiano; Patriots d. Mark Kyle/Cook; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. w. Luger Trio; Luger/Hughes d. Maggs/Santo; (CONTROL CENTER) Solie on Luger-Simmons; Rick Steiner d. Arn Anderson. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - [Key Match]: Ringo Mendoza/Canadian Vampire/Anibal d. Masakre/MS 1/Herodes 2-3 falls. NO RATING.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Jim Ross, WME: "I thought Big Josh named his finishing maneuver after Paul E.---The Big Butt Drop." 2. Ron Simmons, PH, on Paul E: "You and Luger have a lot in common. If each time both of you open your mouth, you were eating food, you'd both weigh a ton." 3. Bobby Heenan, PTW, on Hulk Hogan's "Suburban Commando" muscle amplifiers: "You can get Channel 5 on those." 4. Heenan/Hogan, PTW, (BH) "Beating up a 110-pound actor is a lot different than when you get in the ring with the REAL world champion." (HH) "Well, you have to practice on someone." 5. Hogan, PTW: "That Ric Flair has me so over the edge, I hate the commercial breaks." 6. Paul E., PH: "The only woman who's been married more times than Elizabeth Taylor: Missy Hyatt." 7. Ross, WME: "Paul E. WCW's answer to Cy Sperling." 8. Skinner Keirn, PTW, on Sean Mooney: "I don't like a man in a suit." 9. Paul E., PH, on Sgt. B.L. Parker: "He's as tough on flyin' Brian as the legal system is on Mike Tyson." 10. Alfred Hayes, PTW, to Skinner: "I think you have no right to come in these studios like a ragamuffin. Go take a bath!" 11. Steven DeTruth/Scott Hudson, PW'91, on home video of Steve Lawler-Fabian: (SD) "The video quality is so bad, that could be Ernie Ladd and Michael Hayes wrestling, for all you know. Besides, that tape is doctored!" (SH) "Oh, go make a house call." 12. DeTruth, PW'91, to Hudson: "Skippy, you need to broaden your mind. Might I suggest putting it under a train?" 13. Paul E., PH, on Rick Steiner/Bobby Eaton feud w. Cactus/Abby: "They might as well have spit in the eye of the Village Witch." 14. Dutch Mantel, WMC: "I said, 'That Eric Embry's a tough guy.' They looked at me like I'd spit on the Pope." 15. Ross, WME: "Big Josh is just as comfortable reading FIELD & STREAM as the WCW MAGAZINE." 16. Fans, WMC-TV, on Randy Rhodes: "DUS-TY...DUS-TY!" 17. Roddy Piper/Vince McMahon, SOW: (RP) "Mike Tyson ought to date Sherri." (V)

"You wouldn't want to do that to Mike Tyson." 18. Piper, SOW, on Flair: "Some guy shows up wearing a Lois Lane bathrobe...I ain't no mild-mannered reporter." 19. Jim Cornette, LPWA: "Joe Pedicino's still in the back cleaning up from that cream pie. Maybe he'll put on some underarm deodorant." 20. Cornette, LPWA: "Not only is Medusa Miceli a great wrestler, she's one of the great pie-throwers of all time."

21. Gordon Solie/Ross, JIM ROSS SHOW, on Dusty Rhodes reffing Windham/Simmons vs. Luger/Hughes: (GS) "As much as Dusty says he's going to call it down the middle, I'm not so sure because of the ancient rivalry between himself and Harley Race." (JR) "I'm sure they'll appreciate you calling their rivalry ancient."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Paul E., WCW: "Secaucus, New Jersey: home of the ugliest women in the world---which is why Missy fit in so well." 2. Michael Hayes, PH: "They call you the Enforcers. The only thing you need to force is those bubblebutts away from the table and (to Arn) some hair out of that head." 3. Jerry Lawler, WMC, to Eddie Gilbert: "You are NOT the king. You will NEVER be the wrestler I am!"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. LIZARD BOY (Skinner on Ricky Steamboat). 2. BONEY (DeTruth on Boni Blackstone). 3. THE DORK FOUNDATION (Fan sign on WCW). 4. MR. CONDITIONING (McMahon on Steamboat). 5. MR. PARALLEL (Randy Savage on Steamboat).

QUESTION OF THE WEEK - Paul E., PH, on Van Hammer video: "What was that...a preview for SWAMP THING?"

BEST PICTURES - 1. PTW, Hogan laying out Heenan. 2. PTW, Skinner spitting tobacco juice on Hayes. 3. WCW, Abdullah stuffing cake in mouth. 4. GWF, Chaz pin on Lightning Kid. 5. WCW PRO, Abby choking Pillman w. TV cable. 6. GWF, John Tatum crying. 7. SOW, Virgil's over-top clothesline on Mike Williams. 8. LPWA, Medusa smashing Pedicino w. pie.

MOCKERY OF THE WEEK - Hogan, PTW, doing Flair's "WOOOOOO!"

PASSWORD OF THE WEEK - Lawler, WMC: "SYNOPSISIZES."

HYPE AWARD - Eric Bischoff, WCW PRO, on Abby/Cactus vs. Pillman/Kazmaier: "It could be a main event anywhere on the planet."

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - 1. WCW, Swishpan of camera from aisle to ring during Rich-Pillman match. 2. WFAN, for losing phone contact w. me twice during JODY McDONALD/RICH MANCUSO SHOW. 3. WSB-AM, for losing phone contact w. Gordon Solie during JIM ROSS SHOW.

OOPS AWARD - Hogan's "Suburban Commando" ads appearing on WCW/TBS shows.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Bischoff, WCW PRO: "What goes around comes around." 2. Magnum T.A., WWW: "...add insult to injury." 3. Magnum, WWW: "...fight fire with fire." 4. Tony Schiavone, WWW: "...all she wrote." 5. Lawler, WMC: "...best laid plans of mice and men." 6. Lawler, WMC: "...give the devil his due." 7. Blackstone, MLW: "...good for the goose is good for the gander."

BLOOPER AWARD - Solie, ROSS SHOW: "The Von Erichs are the Kennedys of the WHITE HOUSE."

BOO AWARD - WMC, for billing Eddie Gilbert in graphics as "Global WORLD champion."

In Dallas, Memphis

GILBERT WINS GLOBAL TV, USWA BELTS

MEMPHIS---Barring a late change, Eddie Gilbert was scheduled to defeat Jerry Lawler for the USWA "world" heavyweight championship here Monday night.

Gilbert captured the GLOBAL TV championship in a six-man playoff Friday night at the Globaldome. He defeated The Handsome Stranger by DQ in the finale in a master sleight-of-hand. Gilbert feigned being knocked out as Scott Anthony slipped a pair of knucks onto the hand of The Stranger after a collision.

Saturday morning, Gilbert appeared live on the WMC-TV USWA Memphis show in a faceoff with Lawler at the announce table. Graphics erroneously billed Gilbert as the "Global world champion" for the title vs. title matchup. During the interview, Lawler referred to Gilbert as the "Global 'world' TV champion."

If the Gilbert USWA title victory came off as expected, a rematch will be scheduled Oct. 21 in the Mid-South Coliseum in what is expected to be a "loser retires from USWA" bout.

GLOBAL TV PLAYOFFS: In the first round, Eddie d. John Tatum, the Stranger d. Mike Davis and the Soultaker went to a draw vs. Brian Lee (both eliminated).

THE FINALE: The highlight of the title bout came when Gilbert and the Stranger collided. Scotty pushed Eddie on top and the fans were lured into thinking it was the end but Stranger kicked out on two.

BEST ACTOR AWARD: After the second collision, when Eddie was "playing dead," he would turn and grin at the fans every time the ref turned his back.

THE SECOND SHOW: WWF's Steve Planamenta has told us the added Dec. 3 pay-per-view show will not be a "sequel" to the SURVIVOR SERIES. "Each show will be self-contained," Planamenta told MATWATCH. "You do not have to see one to be able to follow what's going to happen at the second."

VALUE PRICING: We've further learned the Dec. 3 show will be \$12.95 and be a one-hour, 50-minute affair, as opposed to the hour longer SURVIVOR event.

THE SPECULATION: With SUBURBAN COMMANDO showing better early legs than NO HOLDS BARRED, virtually all insiders believe Hulk Hogan's post-SURVIVOR SERIES activity will be limited to pay-per-views and special events. If he loses the WWF belt to Undertaker (Mark Callaway) at SURVIVOR, bet the mortgage on Undertaker-Sid Justice for the WWF title and Hogan-Ric Flair in a cage for the REAL world title at WRESTLEMANIA VIII.

OTHER BETS: One Florida source at the Sun Dome WWF show over the weekend tells us a Flair-Ted DiBiase series is being considered for the future, which would have as a hook Flair having I.R. Schyster investigate DiBiase's finances.

LATEST ON CURT: Planamenta told us Hennig is in rehabilitation and Steve does not believe Curt will have to be out a full year as earlier thought.

THANK YOU NOTE: Medusa Miceli reportedly called Joe Pedicino to thank him for her WCW offer. Insiders say Medusa was snapped up after reports of Pedicino considering her for "The Boss" role.

FOXY MAXIE: GWF syndicator Max Andrews made a semi-heel turn by allowing Scott Anthony to be an alternate in the TV title playoff. Watch this one.

THE MENU: GLOBAL has worked out a plan to provide two first-run shows for ESPN per week and two repackaged MAIN EVENTS shows (MAIN EVENTS is only seen in 18 cities). Only three Friday dates are on the sked for the fourth quarter and those would be highlight shows.

LACKLUSTER LAKE LAND: Only about a third of a house showed for WCW here Saturday night. Attendees told us Simmons was over but Luger was not and their title match simply did not scintillate.

TEPID TAMPA: Also in Central Florida, WWF drew a weak house here Saturday. The Undertaker-Justice match was rated a bomb but, surprisingly, some veteran Florida MATWATCHers say the Ricky Steamboat-Skinner match was weak. "Steve Keirn should retire," said one long-time Sunshine State fan.

HALLOWEEN MYSTERY: I'm told this week's WCW tapings will build more of the mystery as to why Barry Windham is on the heel team at HALLOWEEN HAVOC. Unless another con job is out, the Creatures will be Johnny Rich and Joey Maggs and don't be surprised if they have hunchbacks. As has been said, if they come out to the Notre Dame fight song, that'll take it all.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Other than the expected Gilbert-Lawler title change, the rest of the card included double duty for the Eric Embry/Tom Prichard and Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller teams. The duos faced each other in a lights out match. Earlier, Embry/Prichard took on Dutch Mantel/Tony Anthony and Jarrett/Fuller tried to regain their USWA tag titles.

ALSO MONDAY: Bill Dundee vs. Billy Joe Travis, Danny Davis vs. Bull Pain and Tony Williams vs. Tony Falk. Travis was also challenging Lawler to a "sing-off" at intermission.

WHO IS HE NOW?: Tony Falk was introed as Embry's "driver" Saturday on TV. He later offered Freezer Thompson a shot at joining Embry's gang (Freezer's second straight bid) but he said no.

THERE /S A RESEMBLANCE: When Randy Rhodes was teamed with Travis in a tag match, the TV studio fans began chanting, "DUS-ty...DUS-ty."

LOVE STORY: Chris Love's story on his departure after less than a month in Memphis is his paychecks shrunk so much he couldn't afford to stay.

CANADIAN HOWLS: Our North-of-the-border friends are fuming that Viewer's Choice/Canada will not be offering HALLOWEEN HAVOC. VC's first Canada pay date will be for SURVIVOR SERIES

(Continued on Page 6)

POWER HOUR Gains, Others Weak
**ALL-AMERICAN WINS
LACKLUSTER WEEK**

Fresh on the heels of two straight wins by WCW shows, the Nielsen cable ratings race for the week ending Sept. 30 is back in the hands of WWF ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING.

ALL-AM only inched up a tenth of a rating point to a 2.6 (with a 7.3 per cent share of audience) but it was enough to overcome WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING.

WCW, led by a Brian Pillman-Richard Morton finale, fell 8% to a 2.4/5.2 to nail down the runner-up spot.

PRIME TIME WRESTLING, though featuring a Hulk Hogan guest appearance, turned its third straight sub-par performance. PTW slipped to a 2.2/3.2.

The bright spot was for WCW POWER HOUR, which climbed 20% to a 1.8/7.3. POWER HOUR topped one million homes for the first time in five months.

CABLE

Week Ending Sept. 30	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Year Ago
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 9/29)	2.6/7.3	1.51 million	3.0/8.0
WCW WORLD CHAMP. (TBS 9/28)	2.4/5.2	1.39 million	2.8/6.1
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 9/30)	2.2/3.2	1.27 million	2.9/4.4
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 9/28)	1.8/7.3	1.04 million	1.2/3.0
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS)	Pre-Empted		2.1/4.5

MATWATCHING
(From Page 6)

MONDAY AT CENTER STAGE: The key WCW match was a tag with Sting/Bobby Eaton vs. Cactus/Abdullah the Butcher.

FLORIDA ACTION: About 150 turned out for Boris Matenko's UWF card at Jay McMullen Park last Friday. Top match: Big V defeated Cody Wade for the UWF Southern title.

OTHER FLORIDA ACTION: Weekend crowds figures in Florida: WCW drew 1,200 in Sarasota Thursday and 1,800 in Lakeland Saturday. WWF drew 4,200 at the Sun Dome Saturday night. And one correction on the WWF card, it was Sid vs. Jake Roberts ending in DQ.

WCW MATCHUPS: Axl Rotten lost to Mike Graham in Sarasota and P.N. News in Lakeland. On the Sarasota card, Simmons & Windham beat Luger & Hughes. In Lakeland, Van Hammer d. Johnny B. Badd by DQ and Sting & Rick Steiner d. Cactus Jack & Abdullah with what was termed as one of the wildest post-match brawls in Florida in years with lots of juice.

IN THE CROWD: Missy Hyatt taped some FAN SCAN segs for future WCW shows in Lakeland (a la Boni Blackstone's GLOBAL spots in the crowd).

THE FULL GLOBAL LINEUP: Since our page 5 story, we've had an update on the ESPN GLOBAL lineup. It runs as follows: (MON) ESPN SUPERCARD (first-run), (TUE) MAJOR LEAGUE (with fresh intros by Craig John-
(Continued on next column)

Strike Still On
**LUCHA TALKS MAY
END STALEMATE**

MEXICO CITY---Progress made in the standoff between Mexico City-based Lucha Libre wrestlers, the EMLL promotion and the Televisa network could lead to a settlement of the three-week-old wrestlers and referees strike as early as this week.

The strike, which is centered around a dispute over Televisa's commitment to provide the first over-the-air TV weekly telecasts of EMLL LUCHA LIBRE (the same show as airs weekly on the U.S. GALAVISION Spanish network). The Syndicate for Wrestlers and Referees, the Mexican performers' union, called the strike over concerns the national TV telecast will ultimately make obsolete still-profitable smaller-promotion shows.

The wrestlers were allowed to work the EMLL taping Friday night (which aired Sunday on GALAVISION) but are still boycotting all other shows where cameras are present.

Televisa offered a compromise last week, to telecast the EMLL shows Sundays at 12 noon, instead of the more widely-viewed 5:30-7:30 p.m.

U.S. Lucha Libre analyst Steve Sims, who has been monitoring the situation, told MATWATCH Sunday: "The Televisa offer is seen as a safe move by the union, one which may open the door for negotiations. But the strike is still on."

Another negotiating session was scheduled Monday at the Office of Radio-Television-Cinema in Mexico City.

son), (WED) MAIN EVENTS (new to most of the ESPN audience), (THU) BEST OF GWF (which will include some international matches, including LUCHA LIBRE). The three Friday dates between now and December will be BEST OF GWF shows.

GANGING UP: One-Man Gang goes against The Patriot (Del Wilkes) for the GLOBAL North American title Friday night in Dallas. Black Bart is also in and I'm told the sequence where he snaps a crutch with his branding iron is a memorable shot.

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